

In the Claims

1. (Seven Times Amended) A method for dewatering biological sludge [that has been digested by] from a thermophilic digestion process, comprising:

a. adding a polymeric quaternary ammonium compound[s], as primary component, to the biological sludge; and

b. adding a polyacrylamide to the biological sludge;

such that any combination[s] of the polymeric quaternary ammonium compound[s] and of the polyacrylamide[s] enhances dewatering of the sludge.

2. (Five Times Amended) The method for dewatering biological sludge according to claim 1, wherein the polymeric quaternary ammonium compound[s] is[are] from the diallyl di-methyl ammonium chloride (DADMAC) family of compounds.

3. (Six Times Amended) The method for dewatering biological sludge according to claim 1, wherein the polymeric quaternary ammonium compound[s] is[are] from the epichlorohydrin di-methyl amine (epi-DMA) family of compounds.

4. (Three Times Amended) The method for dewatering biological sludge according to claim 1, wherein the polymeric quaternary ammonium compound is added directly to the sludge; and

[, upon]following the formation of microflocs of the sludge from addition of the polymeric quaternary ammonium compound, a cationic polyacrylamide is added[to form a floc that dewateres the sludge].

5. (Three Times Amended) The method for dewatering biological sludge according to claim 4, wherein the polymeric quaternary ammonium compound and the cationic polyacrylamide are in an approximate[ly] 1:1 ratio, with the cationic polyacrylamide

having a higher molecular weight than the polymeric quaternary ammonium compound[does].

6. (Three Times Amended) The method for dewatering biological sludge according to claim 4, wherein the ratio[s] of [the]polymeric quaternary ammonium compound with respect to [the]cationic polyacrylamide range from about 1:10 to about 20:1.

7. (Twice Previously Amended) The method for dewatering biological sludge according to claim 4, wherein the polymer concentration to solids ratio of total polymer dosage requirement in relationship to percentage of solids component of the sludge is between about 50 ppm:1 percent and about 300 ppm:1 percent.

8. (Twice Amended) The method for dewatering biological sludge according to claim 1, wherein the polymeric quaternary ammonium compound is added directly to the sludge, in an amount sufficient to cause formation of a cationic overcharge within a developed microfloc system, and wherein
the polyacrylamide is [and an] anionic[polyacrylamide is then added for final floc formation].

9. Cancelled

10. (Three Times Amended) The method for dewatering biological sludge according to claim 8, wherein the polymeric quaternary ammonium compound and the anionic polyacrylamide are in an approximate[ly] 10:1 ratio, with the anionic polyacrylamide having a higher molecular weight than the polymeric quaternary ammonium compound[does].

11. (Original) The method for dewatering biological sludge according to claim 10,

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wherein the anionic polyacrylamide is about 40% anionic.

12. (Three Times Amended) The method for dewatering biological sludge according to claim 8, wherein the ratio[s] of the polymeric quaternary ammonium compound to the anionic polyacrylamide ranges from about 1:10 to about 20:1.

13. (Three Times Amended) The method for dewatering biological sludge according to claim 8, wherein the polymer concentration to solids ratio of total polymer dosage requirement in relationship to percentage of solids component of the sludge is between approximately 50 ppm:1 percent and approximately 300 ppm:1 percent.

14. (Original) The method for dewatering biological sludge according to claim 1, wherein the biological sludge is mixed with primary sludge.

15. (Seven Times Amended) [A composition]The method for dewatering biological sludge according to claim 1, comprising

a polymeric quaternary ammonium compound[s], as the primary component,
[and]along with a cationic polyacrylamide;

said polymeric quaternary ammonium compound and cationic polyacrylamide[components] being present [in the composition in a ratio]to enable dewatering of the biological sludge[the composition to function as an agent for dewatering biological sludge form a thermophillic digestion process].

16. (Four Times Amended) The method for dewatering biological sludge according to claim 1, wherein either the polyacrylamide and/or the polymeric quaternary ammonium compound are used in solution, in emulsion, or in dry form.

17. Cancelled

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18. Cancelled

19. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the polyacrylamide is cationic or anionic.

20. Please cancel this claim.

21. Cancelled

22. (Twice Amended) A method for dewatering a sludge comprising water and solids, wherein the solids comprise thermophiles, the method comprising:

_____ contacting the sludge according to a technique selected from a group of techniques including:

_____ contacting the sludge with a polymeric quaternary ammonium compound along with a polyacrylamide; and

_____ contacting the sludge first with the polymeric quaternary ammonium compound and then with the polyacrylamide;

to form a floc that dewateres well.

23. Cancelled.

24. (Amended) The method of claim 22, wherein the polymeric quaternary ammonium compound comprise a molecular weight in the range of about 500,000 to about 3,000,000, and the polyacrylamide comprise a molecular weight in the range of about 5,000,000 to about 15,000,000.

25. (Previously Added) The method of claim 22, wherein the polymeric quaternary ammonium compound is added in an amount sufficient to form microflocs of the

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thermophiles; and wherein the polyacrylamide is added in an amount sufficient to agglomerate the microflocs into flocs for dewatering.

26. (Twice Amended) The method of claim 22, wherein the polymeric quaternary ammonium compound comprises at least one selected from the group consisting of di-allyl di-methyl ammonium chloride (DADMAC) family of compounds and epichlorohydrin di-methyl amine (epi-DMA) family of compounds.

27. (Amended) The method of claim 25, wherein the ratio of the polymeric quaternary ammonium compound to the cationic polyacrylamide is in the range of about 1:10 to about 20:1.

28. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 25, wherein a concentration of quaternary ammonium compound and polyacrylamide to the percentage of solids in the sludge is in the range of about 50 ppm:1 percent to about 300 ppm:1 percent.

29. (Amended) The method of claim 22, wherein the polymeric quaternary ammonium compound is added in an amount sufficient to cause formation of the thermophiles into a developed microfloc system having a cationic overcharge, and wherein the polyacrylamide is anionic.

30. (Twice Amended) The method of claim 29, wherein the polymeric quaternary ammonium compound comprises at least one selected from the group consisting of di-allyl di-methyl ammonium chloride (DADMAC) family of compounds and epichlorohydrin di-methyl amine (epi-DMA) family of compounds.

31. (Previously Added) The method of claim 29, wherein ratio of the polymeric quaternary ammonium compound to the cationic polyacrylamide is in the range of about

1:10 to about 20:1.

32. (Twice Amended) The method of claim 29, wherein the total concentration of quaternary ammonium and polyacrylamide to the percentage of solids in the sludge is in the range of about 50 ppm:1 percent to about 300 ppm:1 percent.

33. (Twice Amended) A method for dewatering a sludge comprising water and thermophiles, the method comprising:

adding to the sludge a polymeric quaternary ammonium compound.

34. (Twice Amended) The method of claim 33, wherein the polymeric quaternary ammonium compound comprise a molecular weight of greater than about 5,000,000.

35. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 33, wherein the polymer is added in an amount sufficient to form microflocs of the thermophiles.

36. (Twice Amended) The method of claim 35, wherein the quaternary ammonium compound comprises at least one selected from the group consisting of di-allyl di-methyl ammonium chloride (DADMAC) family of compounds and epichlorohydrin di-methyl amine (epi-DMA) family of compounds.

37. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 35, wherein a concentration of polymer to the percentage of solids in the sludge is in the range of about 50 ppm:1 percent to about 300 ppm:1 percent.

38. (Twice Amended) The method of claim 35, wherein the polymer is added in an amount sufficient to cause formation of the thermophiles into a developed microfloc system having a cationic overcharge, and wherein an anionic polyacrylamide is added for

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final floc formation.

39. Please cancel this claim.

40. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 38, wherein a concentration of polymer to the percentage of solids in the sludge is in the range of about 50 ppm:1 percent to about 300 ppm:1 percent.

41. (Twice Amended) A sludge composition comprising:

water;

polyacrylamide comprising cationic or anionic moiety;

a polymeric quaternary ammonium compound; and

solids comprising thermophiles.

42. Cancelled

43. Cancelled

44. (Twice Amended) The sludge of claim 41, wherein the polymeric quaternary ammonium compound comprises at least one selected from the group consisting of di-allyl di-methyl ammonium chloride (DADMAC) family of compounds and epichlorohydrin di-methyl amine (epi-DMA) family of compounds.

45. (Previously Amended) The sludge of claim 41, wherein ratio of the polymeric quaternary ammonium compound to the polyacrylamide is in the range of about 1:10 to about 20:1.

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46. (Previously Amended) The sludge of claim 41, wherein a concentration of quaternary ammonium compound and polyacrylamide to the percentage of solids in the sludge is in the range of about 50 ppm:1 percent to about 300 ppm:1 percent.

47. (Amended) The sludge of claim 41, wherein the polymeric quaternary ammonium compound comprise a molecular weight in the range of about 500,000 to about 3,000,000, and the polyacrylamide comprise a molecular weight in the range of about 5,000,000 to about 15,000,000.

48. (Twice Amended) A sludge composition comprising:

water;

polyacrylamide comprising cationic or anionic moiety;

a polymeric quaternary ammonium compound; and

solids comprising microflocs of thermophiles.

49. Cancelled

50. Cancelled

51. (Twice Amended) The sludge of claim 48, wherein the polymeric quaternary ammonium compound comprises at least one selected from the group consisting of di-allyl di-methyl ammonium chloride (DADMAC) family of compounds and epichlorohydrin di-methyl amine (epi-DMA) family of compounds.

52. (Previously Amended) The sludge of claim 48, wherein a ratio of the polymeric quaternary ammonium compound to the polyacrylamide is in the range of about 1:10 to about 20:1.

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53. (Previously Amended) The sludge of claim 48, wherein a concentration of quaternary ammonium compound and polyacrylamide to the percentage of solids in the sludge is in the range of about 50 ppm:1 percent to about 300 ppm:1 percent.

54. (Amended) The sludge of claim 48, wherein the polymeric quaternary ammonium compound comprise a molecular weight in the range of about 500,000 to about 3,000,000, and the polyacrylamide comprise a molecular weight in the range of about 5,000,000 to about 15,000,000.

55. (Twice Amended) A sludge composition comprising:

water;

polyacrylamide comprising cationic or anionic moiety;

a polymeric quaternary ammonium compound; and

solids comprising an agglomeration of microflocs of thermophiles.

56. Cancelled

57. Cancelled

58. (Twice Amended) The sludge of claim 55, wherein the polymeric quaternary ammonium compound comprises at least one selected from the group consisting of di-allyl di-methyl ammonium chloride (DADMAC) family of compounds and epichlorohydrin di-methyl amine (epi-DMA) family of compounds.

59. (Amended) The sludge of claim 55, wherein a ratio of the polymeric quaternary ammonium compound to polyacrylamide is in the range of about 1:10 to about 20:1.

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60. (Previously Amended) The sludge of claim 55, wherein a concentration of quaternary ammonium compound and polyacrylamide to the percentage of solids in the sludge is in the range of about 50 ppm; 1 percent to about 300 ppm; 1 percent

61. (Amended) The sludge of claim 55, wherein the polymeric quaternary ammonium compound comprise a molecular weight in the range of about 500,000 to about 3,000,000, and the polyacrylamide comprise a molecular weight in the range of about 5,000,000 to about 15,000,000.

62. - 66. Cancelled

67. (Amended) A sludge composition comprising:

water;
thermophiles; and
a polymeric quaternary ammonium compound.

68. (Twice Amended) The sludge of claim 67, wherein the quaternary ammonium moiety comprises at least one selected from the group consisting of di-allyl di-methyl ammonium chloride (DADMAC) family of compounds and epichlorohydrin di-methyl amine (epi-DMA) family of compounds.

69. (Previously Added) The sludge of claim 67, wherein the polymer is present in an amount sufficient to form microflocs of the thermophiles.

70. (Previously Added) The sludge of claim 67, wherein the polymer is present in an amount sufficient to cause formation of the thermophiles into a developed microfloc system having a cationic overcharge.

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71. (Twice Amended) The sludge of claim 67, wherein the polymeric quaternary ammonium compound comprise a molecular weight in the range of at least about 5,000,000.

72. (New) The method of claim 22, wherein the polyacrylamide is cationic or anionic.

73. (New) The method of claim 35, wherein a cationic polyacrylamide is added.

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Claim List - Status and Support of Current Amendment Changes

Claim	Status	Type	Support of Changes
1	Seven Times Amended	Method	The phrase "at a temperature greater than about 115 °F" has been removed thereby placing the claim in its original format. The phrase "that has been digested by" has been replaced with "from." Support for this wording can be found in col. 4, lines 51 – 54.
2	Five Times Amended	Method	"family" has been changed to "family of compounds" so as to make this claim grammatically correct. Support for this wording can be found in col. 5 lines 2 – 9 and col. 5 lines 52 – 53 and col. 6 lines 9 – 10 and col. 6 lines 44 – 47 and col. 6 lines 58 – 59 and col. 7 lines 4 – 11.
3	Six Times Amended	Method	"family of compounds" has been added. Support for this wording can be found in col. 5 lines 2 – 9 and col. 5 lines 52 – 53 and col. 6 lines 9 – 10 and col. 6 lines 44 – 47 and col. 6 lines 58 – 59 and col. 7 lines 4 – 11.
4	Three Times Amended	Method	The word "upon" is removed. Support for this wording can be found in col. 5 lines 52 – 57.
5	Three Times Amended	Method	The word "approximately" is changed to "approximate" to be grammatically correct. The word "does" is removed to be grammatically correct. Support for this wording can be found in col. 5 lines 57 – 63.
6	Three Times Amended	Method	The phrase "ratio of the polymeric" has been changed to "the ratio of polymeric" to be grammatically correct. Support for this wording can be found in col. 5 lines 63 – 66.
7	Twice Previously Amended	Method	No changes in this amendment.
8	Twice Amended	Method	The phrase "wherein the polyacrylamide is a anionic polyacrylamide added for final floc formation" has replaced with "and wherein the polyacrylamide is anionic." Support for this

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			wording can be found in the abstract and in col. 6 lines 9 – 20.
9	Cancelled	N/A	N/A
10	Three Times Amended	Method	The word “approximately” is changed to “approximate” to be grammatically correct. The word “does” is removed to be grammatically correct. Support for this wording can be found in col. 6 lines 20 – 25.
11	Original	Method	N/A
12	Three Times Amended	Method	The word “the” is inserted to be grammatically correct. Support for this wording can be found in col. 6 lines 20 – 25.
13	Three Times Amended	Method	The word “the” is inserted to be grammatically correct. Support for this wording can be found in col. 6 lines 34 – 36.
14	Original	Method	N/A
15	Seven Times Amended	Method	References in this claim to “composition” while the claim depends on a method claim are confusing; therefore all references to “composition” are removed from this claim. Support for this wording can be found in the abstract.
16	Four Times Amended	Method	This claim has been reworded with “are” instead of “is” and the word “and” has been changed to “and/or” to be grammatically correct. To be sure to communicate that each compound can be in an individual physical state the word “either” is inserted. To be sure as to include emulsion, the phrase “in emulsion,” is added. Support for this wording can be found throughout the examples, col. 7 line 49 – col. 9 line 49.
17	Cancelled	N/A	N/A
18	Cancelled	N/A	N/A
19	Previously Amended	Method	No changes in this amendment.
20	Cancelled	N/A	N/A

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21	Cancelled	N/A	N/A
22	Twice Amended	Method	The phrase "at a temperature greater than about 115 °F" has been removed thereby placing the claim in its original format. The words "according to a technique selected from a group of techniques including: contacting" have been inserted to make the claim grammatically correct. The phrase "to form a treated sludge" has been changed to "to form a floc that dewateres well" and has been moved to the end of the claim to make the claim grammatically correct. Support for this wording can be found in the abstract and in col. 5, line 52 – col. 7 lines 20.
23	Cancelled	N/A	N/A
24	Amended	Method	"Comprises" is changed to "comprise" to be grammatically correct. There are no substantive changes to this claim.
25	Previously Added	Method	No changes in this amendment.
26	Twice Amended	Method	The claim dependency has been changed to claim 22 instead of claim 25. The words "family of compounds" has been added so as to depict that there are many methods of creating a polyquaternary moiety, in this case either based upon allyl chloride or based upon epichlorohydrin. Support for this wording can be found in col. 5 lines 2 – 9 and col. 5 lines 52 – 53 and col. 6 lines 9 – 10 and col. 6 lines 44 – 47 and col. 6 lines 58 – 59 and col. 7 lines 4 – 11.
27	Amended	Method	The word "the" has been added to make the claim grammatically correct. Support for this wording can be found in col. 5 lines 63 – 66.
28	Previously Amended	Method	No changes in this amendment.
29	Amended	Method	The phrase "the anionic polyacrylamide is added for final floc formation" is changed to "the polyacrylamide is anionic". This change is necessitated as claim 22 does not depict a specific polyacrylamide moiety. Support for

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			this wording can be found in col. 6 lines 9 – 20.
30	Twice Amended	Method	The words “family of compounds” has been added so as to depict that there are many methods of creating a polyquaternary moiety, in this case either based upon allyl chloride or epichlorohydrin. Support for this wording can be found in col. 5 lines 2 – 9 and col. 5 lines 52 – 53 and col. 6 lines 9 – 10 and col. 6 lines 44 – 47 and col. 6 lines 58 – 59 and col. 7 lines 4 – 11.
31	Previously Added	Method	No changes in this amendment.
32	Twice Amended	Method	The word “the” is added to make the claim grammatically correct. Support for this wording can be found in col. 6 lines 5 – 8 and col. 6 lines 34 – 36.
33	Twice Amended	Method	The phrase “at a temperature greater than about 115 °F” has been removed thereby placing the claim in its original format. The word “treating” has been replaced with “dewatering.” Support for this wording can be found in col. 5 lines 2 – 4, and then further supported in col. 5 lines 53 – 57.
34	Twice Amended	Method	The phrase “in the range” has been removed to make the claim grammatically correct. Support for this wording can be found in col. 5 lines 57 – 63. “Comprises” is changes to “comprise” to be grammatically correct.
35	Previously Amended	Method	No changes in this amendment.
36	Twice Amended	Method	The words “family of compounds” has been added so as to depict that there are many methods of creating a polyquaternary moiety, in this case either based upon allyl chloride or epichlorohydrin. The claim is changed to be based upon claim 35 instead of claim 33. Support for this wording can be found in col. 5 lines 2 – 9 and col. 5 lines 52 – 53 and col. 6 lines 9 – 10 and col. 6 lines 44 – 47 and col. 6 lines 58 – 59 and col. 7 lines 4 – 11.5
37	Previously Amended	Method	No changes in this amendment.

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38	Twice Amended	Method	This claim is dependent upon claim 35 and not upon claim 33; therefore, the dependency is changed to 35. The phrase "the anionic polyacrylamide" is changed to "an anionic polyacrylamide." This change is necessitated as neither claim 33 nor claim 35 depicts a polyacrylamide. Support for this wording can be found in col. 6 lines 9 – 20.
39	Cancelled	N/A	N/A
40	Previously Amended	Method	No changes in this amendment.
41	Twice Amended	Composition	The phrase "polyacrylamide" has been changed to "polyacrylamide comprising cationic or anionic moiety" to more correctly identify the moiety of the polyacrylamide as the specification only supports cationic and anionic moieties of polyacrylamide. The phrase "at a temperature greater than about 115 °F" has been removed thereby placing the claim in its original format. Support for this wording can be found in the abstract and in col. 5 line 52 – col. 7 line 20 and col. 7 line 49 – col. 9 line 49.
42	Cancelled	N/A	N/A
43	Cancelled	N/A	N/A
44	Twice Amended	Composition	The words "family of compounds" has been added so as to depict that there are many methods of creating a polyquaternary moiety, in this case either based upon allyl chloride or epichlorohydrin. Support for this wording can be found in col. 5 lines 2 – 9 and col. 5 lines 52 – 53 and col. 6 lines 9 – 10 and col. 6 lines 44 – 47 and col. 6 lines 58 – 59 and col. 7 lines 4 – 11.
45	Previously Amended	Composition	No changes in this amendment.
46	Previously Amended	Composition	No changes in this amendment.
47	Amended	Composition	"Comprises" is changed to "comprise" to be grammatically correct. There are no substantive changes to this claim.

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48	Twice Amended	Composition	The phrase "polyacrylamide" has been changed to "polyacrylamide comprising cationic or anionic moiety" to more correctly identify the moiety of the polyacrylamide as the specification only supports cationic and anionic moieties of polyacrylamide. The phrase "at a temperature greater than about 115 °F" has been removed thereby placing the claim in its original format. Support for this wording can be found in the abstract and in col. 5 line 52 – col. 7 line 20 and col. 7 line 49 – col. 9 line 49.
49	Cancelled	N/A	N/A
50	Cancelled	N/A	N/A
51	Twice Amended	Composition	The words "family of compounds" has been added so as to depict that there are many methods of creating a polyquaternary moiety, in this case either based upon allyl chloride or epichlorohydrin. Support for this wording can be found in col. 5 lines 2 – 9 and col. 5 lines 52 – 53 and col. 6 lines 9 – 10 and col. 6 lines 44 – 47 and col. 6 lines 58 – 59 and col. 7 lines 4 – 11.
52	Previously Amended	Composition	No changes in this amendment.
53	Previously Amended	Composition	No changes in this amendment.
54	Amended	Composition	"Comprises" is changes to "comprise" to be grammatically correct. There are no substantive changes to this claim.
55	Twice Amended	Composition	The phrase "polyacrylamide" has been changed to "polyacrylamide comprising cationic or anionic moiety" to more correctly identify the moiety of the polyacrylamide as the specification only supports cationic and anionic moieties of polyacrylamide. The phrase "at a temperature greater than about 115 °F" has been removed thereby placing the claim in its original format. Support for this wording can be found in the abstract and in col. 5 line 52 – col. 7 line 20 and col. 7 line 49 – col. 9 line 49.
56	Cancelled	N/A	N/A

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57	Cancelled	N/A	N/A
58	Twice Amended	Composition	The words "family of compounds" has been added so as to depict that there are many methods of creating a polyquaternary moiety, in this case either based upon allyl chloride or epichlorohydrin. Support for this wording can be found in col. 5 lines 2 - 9 and col. 5 lines 52 - 53 and col. 6 lines 9 - 10 and col. 6 lines 44 - 47 and col. 6 lines 58 - 59 and col. 7 lines 4 - 11.
59	Amended	Composition	The descriptive word "cationic" to polyacrylamide is removed due to the changes made to claim 55 reviewed above. Support for this wording can be found in col. 5 lines 63 - 66 and col. 6 lines 25 - 29.
60	Previously Amended	Composition	No changes in this amendment.
61	Amended	Composition	"Comprises" is changes to "comprise" to be grammatically correct. There are no substantive changes to this claim.
62	Cancelled	N/A	N/A
63	Cancelled	N/A	N/A
64	Cancelled	N/A	N/A
65	Cancelled	N/A	N/A
66	Cancelled	N/A	N/A
67	Amended	Composition	The phrase "at a temperature greater than about 115 °F" has been removed thereby placing the claim in its original format. Support for this wording can be found in col. 5 lines 2 - 4 and col. 7 line 49 - col. 9 line 49.
68	Twice Amended	Composition	The word "moity" has been changed to the correct spelling "moiety." A space has been placed between the "e" and the "o" in "sludgeof" to be grammatically correct. The words "family of compounds" has been added so as to depict that there are many methods of creating a polyquaternary moiety, in this case either based upon allyl chloride or

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			epichlorohydrin. Support for this wording can be found in col. 5 lines 2 – 9 and col. 5 lines 52 – 53 and col. 6 lines 9 – 10 and col. 6 lines 44 – 47 and col. 6 lines 58 – 59 and col. 7 lines 4 – 11.
69	Previously Added	Composition	No changes in this amendment.
70	Previously Added	Composition	No changes in this amendment.
71	Twice Amended	Composition	The word “wherein” was previously worded “wherein wherein;” this has been corrected to read “wherein.” There are no substantive changes to this claim.
72	New	Method	Support for this claim can be found in the abstract and in col. 5 line 52 – col. 6 line 44.
73	New	Method	Support for this claim can be found in the abstract and in col. 5 line 52 – col. 6 line 8.

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